

Minutes

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2007

Board Members Present: Lao Rubert, Carolina Justice Policy Center; Geoff Hathaway, Community Corrections; Carolyn Titus, Deputy County Manager; Deborah Schwartz, Member At Large; Antoinette Hilliard, Public Defender's Office; Alan Goldstein, Criminal Defense Attorney; David Saacks, District Attorney; Marcia Owen, Victim Services; Gayle Harris, Public Health; Sadie Alger, Substance Abuse;

Board Members Absent: Chairperson Ann McKown, District Court Judge; Vice Chairman Wes Crabtree, Office of the Sheriff; Secretary Robin Odom, NC Department of Labor; Ellen Holliman, Mental Health; Kenneth Titus, Superior Court Judge; Fredericka Carver, Member At Large; Michael Page, Durham County Commissioner; Lafonda General, Member At Large; Riley Butler, Community-Based Corrections Program

Staff: Gudrun Parmer, Jo Iverson, and Jonie Coss

Guests: Craig Brown, District Court Judge; Rob Robinson, the Durham Center; Conrad Strader, Division II, Community Development Specialist

Introductions: Carolyn Titus, welcoming everyone, called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes: August 15th minutes were presented for approval. Minutes were approved without corrections.

Second Chance Program (SCP): Gudrun stated compliance had become an issue with the SCP growing rapidly over the years; however, progress has been made. Geoff Hathaway stated probation officer Bonnie Barnett had been assigned to the SCP; unfortunately, she has been out on medical leave due to a broken ankle. She had met CJRC staff and attended a staffing for SCP clients. Geoff also stated she received her caseload assignment. Geoff talked briefly about Day Reporting Center (DRC) numbers and the hope of those numbers going up, along with SCP numbers.

CJPP Funding: Conrad Strader reported that Durham had received an increased amount in the CJPP Grant and how the increased amount was calculated in the grant. Conrad stated the awarded amount for Durham was \$177,199.00. He explained the funding formula previously had a cap which has been removed this fiscal year and caused some programs across NC to lose money, but Durham County received an increase due to the change. Mr. Strader explained the funding formula was determined by three components: 25% was an equal share for all counties, 50% was based on county population and 25% was based on intermediate probation entries in the county. Conrad informed the board CJPP would be reviewed in February by the Legislature. He added that reallocation funding was available again and programs that lost funding would be considered first, he stressed that it did not mean the programs that gained more funding would be excluded from the reallocation grants. Furthermore, he stated, Secretary Beck had informed DCC staff that no new programs would be added until the current ones were assessed and determined if

they were reaching their goals. The assessment process would take approximately two to three years to complete. He stressed DOC was not looking to shut down programs, but wanted to see what was working. The evaluation would be evidence-based and a report would be submitted to each program when finished. The board held more discussion concerning the funding formula and how it affected many of the programs across NC.

Gudrun presented a copy of the funding modification request which became necessary due to the change in the grant amount. She explained the modifications to the budget and each line item that changed.

Outcome Reviews: Gudrun presented a one-page quality assurance report that was submitted to Conrad in October. She stated it had the same measurable objectives submitted with last year's grant. The four main goals were to reduce recidivisms, reduce drug dependencies, reduce probation revocation and increase employability, which were established by the CJPP legislation. Gudrun briefly highlighted the report and explained each of the objectives' outcomes.

Gudrun presented the recidivism report for fiscal year 04/05. Reviewing the surprisingly high re-arrest numbers for SCP, Gudrun pointed out that 70 percent of the clients who graduated and were rearrested had only completed drug education, a two month program. Rob Robinson stated best practices indicated 'the longer you keep persons in treatment, the better the chance for them to succeed'. He stated 7 months was a good number to keep them in treatment, but stopping treatment right after basic education was not good. Gudrun stated that this report clearly showed that basic treatment may not do it alone. Jo added most of these clients also did not receive any other services. Jo explained changes had already been made in the substance abuse treatment protocol based on CJPP expectations. There was discussion on the Second Chance Program and the reasons its completion numbers may be low. Conrad talked about a new Risk/Need Assessment instrument that would be administered by probation. He added this assessment could be very helpful to CJRC to determine clients' service needs. He stated it would start the beginning of the year with services determined based on the assessment and not on conviction. Jo added CJRC's new treatment protocol was allowing clients to be proactive with their treatment, taking more control and making more decisions about treatment. Gudrun briefly highlighted DRC and Reentry numbers from the report.

Program Update: Gudrun stated she reviewed the program numbers for the first four months of the fiscal year compared to last year's. For DRC and Reentry, July through October numbers were consistent with 2006. The Reentry admissions were 50% higher, but DRC numbers were growing very slowly. She was aware of more cases coming, but there were only 41 admissions thus far including Reentry. One of the issues was the need to have cases with an underlying active sentence of at least 120 days. The board discussed the on-going problems with DRC numbers and the effect that plea-bargaining in the court system may have on the numbers. Gudrun also reviewed Second Change Program numbers and stated the completion rate was at 45% for the year.

She added there had been some discussion on identifying gaps and needs in services to the courts and to offenders; it also included perusing grants for next year. She invited board members to be included in the discussions if they were aware of any needs or service gaps.

She reported the new client database was still in the development stage and testing should start mid-December. The go live date was planned for January.

Gudrun stated Project Restore was on its second cycle. The program started with 14 participants and had 10 now. Gudrun announced the graduation date was Monday, Dec 3 at 2:00pm and she

invited board members and guests to attend. The Maintenance Technician position had been established and was in the process of being posted, Project Restore graduates would be able to apply. She explained it was a 6-month temporary position with the General Services Department. It could provide a solid 6 months of work experience and would pay at least a living wage.

Gudrun mentioned the Office of the Sheriff was using a portion of its Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) to pilot the Jail Reentry Program with CJRC in the County Detention Center with a start date in Jan/Feb. This program would target inmates who were sentenced to 30 – 60 days. Gudrun stated the program was a 28-day program, would focus on CBI and employability skills, and follow the same schedule as the STARR Program. After program completion, inmates could come to CJRC for follow up.

Gudrun mentioned the Comprehensive Anti Gang Initiative (CAGI), a federal grant that was awarded to Raleigh and Durham and focused on suppression, prevention and reentry. She reported Carolyn Titus and herself had attended several meetings concerning the grant, where it was decided that the County of Durham would oversee the money for Reentry and the City of Durham would coordinate the suppression and prevention components. She stated a grant administrator would be hired to oversee the grant and the reporting.

Pretrial Services Update: Gudrun reported on efforts to reduce the jail population. There was brief discussion on the numbers and how Probation and the District Attorney's office were working to assist in the effort of managing the jail population growth.

Announcements, other Issues: Dianne with TASC will be relocating to DCC on Orange Street. The US House of Representatives has passed the Second Chance Act; there was hope it would go to the Senate before the end of this session. Gudrun encouraged board members to contact NC Senators in support of the Second Chance Act, as it could bring funding to state and local communities for offender services.

Judge Brown spoke briefly about available treatment funds for Drug Treatment Court.

Geoff Hathaway spoke briefly about the New Life Court Program and its anticipated January start date.

Carolyn Titus thanked everyone for attending and announced the next meeting of the CJPP Advisory Board was scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.